

Meeting of the CCSP Unified Synthesis Product Development
Committee on "Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States"
Climate Change Science Program Office
1717 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC
April 16, 2009

Dr. Christopher Miller, Designated Federal Officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Unified Synthesis Product (USP) Development Committee called this fourth FACA meeting to order at 8:15 am on April 16 and described the rules of a FACA meeting. The meeting proceeded in accordance with the published agenda (http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/index.jsp?pg=.%2Fccsp%2Funified_synthesis.jsp).

The meeting was structured to address plans for the initial rollout of the report (press conference, Hill briefings, author interviews), support materials, regional informational activities on both short and longer time scales, and the entrainment of people and organizations to participate in the outreach.

Public Comment

There was no request from the public to make an oral comment or statement during the official public comment period.

Discussion

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various strategies for disseminating the report "Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States", derivative products (e.g., brochures, a booklet), and a schedule of interactions with media and the public that would ensure that it reaches a broad community of potential users.

Co-chairs Tom Karl and Jerry Melillo identified three key elements of the roll-out:

- High-profile press release event in Washington. Level of governmental engagement to be determined. OSTP and NOAA leadership very interested.
- Hill Briefings: Engagement of appropriate committees with regional engagement.
- Regional Outreach: Engagement of scientists, decision makers, and stakeholders. Want to take advantage of networking from various groups and use additional internet communications.

Other points discussed:

Report Attributes:

- The USP should be promoted on its pedigree from SAPs, IPCC roots, inputs from thousands of scientists, extensively reviewed (comments from public and others)
- Promotion of report as 'Gold Standard' for science impact assessment
- Establish scientific consensus on issue
- Differentiation of this report from others written in last couple of years
- Potential of report as catalytic event – groundwork for next national assessment

Press Release Key Points:

- About impacts of climate change being experienced now, and those projected for the future, in U.S. regions and sectors;
- An authoritative synthesis and update of the science, written in plain language to be accessible to decision makers at all levels to help in planning for the future;
- Authored by a Federal Advisory Committee of scientists chosen for their expertise in climate change and its impacts;
- Non-partisan; developed over the past year under both parties' administrations;
- Policy-relevant, but not policy-prescriptive, i.e., how impacts would differ under higher versus lower emissions of heat-trapping gases, but does not recommend what policies should be pursued;
- Draws on the 21 Synthesis and Assessment reports of the CCSP, as well as the IPCC and other peer-reviewed sources;
- Includes examples of some initial adaptation strategies that are being pursued.

Targeted Outreach:

- Emphasis on non-technical focus – empowering people to think about climate in their own context; new insights from user/scientist relationship for adaptation (and mitigation)

- Outreach to groups like mayors, governors, religious groups; mapping sectors to Hill committees;
- Accessibility for K-12 communities: teachers and students; America's Climate Choices forum
- Scientific societies outreach (e.g., ASCE, AWRA, trade press); broadcast meteorologists

Engagement:

- Ensure usable knowledge base for the public through 'road show'
- Move to action with state and local partners
- Economic benefits for adaptation – savings

Governmental/Interagency Coordination:

- Coordination on administration priorities: Climate adaptation working group: What is the Federal Government going to do? Key messages from Executive Branch – 'green jobs' , 'middle-class initiative' , 'energy independence'
- Why and how on carbon handling and adaptation measures
- This is a product of the Executive Office of the President; this level should be engaged.
- Moving policy on adaptation at national, regional, state, and local levels

A web site development team has been formed. The web site will accommodate high-volume hits, unique URL, high-resolution access and search capabilities, clickable map and other entry points. Analog – IPCC web presence, beta testing of site.

Meeting Decisions and Actions

A planning group will be formalized after this meeting to deal with all the details associated with the various aspects of outreach.

All participants to provide listing of contact groups and standing meetings.

Attendance List

Tom Karl (NOAA)
 Dave McGuire (USGS)
 Tom Peterson (NOAA)

Eileen Shea (NOAA)
Michael Savonis (DOT)
Don Boesch (Univ. of Maryland)
Stewart Cohen (Environment Canada)
Katharine Hayhoe (Texas Tech)
Tony Janetos (PNNL)
Jerry Melillo (Marine Biological Laboratory)
Evan Mills (LBNL)
Michael Wehner (LBNL)
Don Wuebbles (Univ. of Ill)
John Stone (Carleton University)
Lynne Carter (Adaptation Network)
Nancy Grimm (Arizona State University)
Christopher Miller (NOAA)
Bill Murray (STG)
Sara Veasey (NOAA)
Susan Hassol (Climate Communication)
Tim Owen (NCDC)
Peter Schultz (CCSPO)
Kim Curtis (Resource Media)
Jack Kaye (NASA)
Steve Cole (NASA)
Scott Smullen (NOAA)
Staci Lewis (NOAA)
Nick Sundt (WWF)
Louisa Koch (NOAA)
Frank Niepold (NOAA)
Rachel Wilhelm (NOAA)
Hunter Cutting (Resource Media)
Jonathan Kelsey (NOAA)
Gerry Schwartz (Consultant/Transportation) – by phone

